

Vincent Loockerman House
South State Street
Dover
Kent County
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-142

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VINCENT LOOCKERMAN HOUSE

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Location: South State Street, Dover, Kent County,
Delaware

Present Owner: William Bradford, a descendant of the
original owner, Vincent Loockerman

Brief Statement
of Significance: Built in 1742 on a typical plan of
the area, this house has woodwork and
paneling that are representative of the
best craftsmanship of the period

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Loockerman house in Dover was built by or for Vincent Loockerman in 1742. It has never passed out of the family and has descended to the present owners by inheritance.

It is a two-story-and-attic five-bay structure of brick, now stuccoed. The door and the small-paned transom above it are original; the doorway with pilasters and pediment is a later addition.

The original part of the house is two rooms deep and the pre-Georgian plan is an adaptation of the late-Mediaeval plan discussed in connection with White Meadow Farm in Sussex and also the Ridgely house on The Green in Dover.

In other words, the square hall into which the house-door opens has at one side a winding stair of three short flights, with rectangular landings. Although there is no fireplace, the two "added" rooms open from the hall. The doorway of one is to the right of the house-door on entering; the arched doorway to the other is directly opposite. Both these rooms have fireplaces. The remaining ground-floor room opens into the two rooms just mentioned. To the southeast, a large frame wing of later date has greatly

increased the size of the original house.

The woodwork and paneling throughout the house are Georgian and representative of the best craftsmanship of the period. In the large room east of the hall the elaborate and handsome woodwork of a more sophisticated and later Georgian pattern has replaced the earlier woodwork. In the hall, the woodwork is coeval with the building of the house. The room immediately above the large room has paneling of the earlier date.

With its Georgian woodwork and its pre-Georgian plan, the Loockerman house, like not a few others in Kent and Sussex, and some in New Castle County also, indicates a prevalent conservatism, slow to yield to the Georgian fundamental regularity of plan, embodying open stairs of straight flights in a hall.

Prepared by Harold Donaldson Eberlein
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